

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An extendable and contractable steering column apparatus including an outer column through which an inner column is slidably inserted, a lock housing portion formed on the outer column, and a locking mechanism that includes a pair of movable pieces slidably fitted within a cylinder bore formed in the lock housing portion to shift said pair of movable pieces toward each other so as to press said inner column and to shift said pair of movable pieces away from each other so as to release the pressure on said inner column, in response to swinging of an operating lever, wherein a cross section of the cylinder bore of the lock housing portion is non-circular and cross sections of said pair of movable pieces are also non-circular correspondingly.